

Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Project Profile Arkansas

Updated: February 22, 2001

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program

Focus Areas Funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laboratory – Biological Agents • Surveillance and Epidemiology • Health Alert Network
Arkansas has strengthened its capacity to respond to threats of bioterrorism by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing staff to provide overall operation of the biologic agents laboratory, • Providing laboratory training to improve staff proficiency in applying methodologies to detect bioterrorism threat agents, • Increasing awareness of the threat of bioterrorism by presenting at various professional medical forums, conducting grand rounds and developing brochures focused on bioterrorism preparedness and response for Level A and B laboratories, • Developing an emergency operations manual for use in the microbiological laboratory, • Collaborating with the Texas Department of Health, Public Health Laboratory in Austin, who will provide referral laboratory testing services for some bioterrorism threat agents, • Purchasing laboratory equipment and supplies needed to rapidly detect and characterize select bioterrorist threat agents, • Developing and implementing four assessments designed to identify public health information system needs, distance-based learning resources, and evaluate the organizational structure of the Arkansas Department of Health as it relates to bioterrorism preparedness and response. • Purchasing and installing equipment for field staff to use that will enhance their ability to identify and respond to a bioterrorist event, • Providing training for staff to ensure they are capable of using newly installed communications equipment/computers, and • Expanding satellite downlink facilities to improve access to distance learning offerings, and • Increased infrastructure and capacity of microbiological laboratory testing area. Comment: Incubator, refrigerator, freezer, and microscope were purchased.
Project Year 2 Plans (August 31, 2000-August 30, 2001) include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designating a coordinator for surveillance and epidemiology activities relative to bioterrorism, • Organizing and designating staff to conduct epidemiologic field investigations in the event of suspected or confirmed biological or chemical terrorist events, • Developing a public health surveillance and epidemiologic response plan specific to bioterrorism.

	<p>plan specific to bioterrorism,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating the existing 24-hour per day system for reporting diseases, • Designing activities to enlist and enhance collaboration with new and existing partners regarding infectious disease surveillance and epidemiology related to bioterrorism, • Incorporating material specific to bioterrorism into existing training in surveillance, epidemiology, and outbreak investigation for state and local public health staff, • Updating the state department of health's information technology plan to ensure standards for electronic surveillance systems are applied to new and emerging public health information systems in Arkansas, • Completing the four-part organizational capacity assessments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public Health Information and Communication Capacity ○ Biochemical and Microbiological Knowledge and Professional Skills ○ Distance-based Learning Capacity ○ Organizational Structure of the Arkansas Department of Health • Providing equipment and training to state and local health department staff to ensure they have the tools needed to rapidly communicate during a bioterrorist event, and • Expanding satellite downlink facilities to broaden access to distance-based learning courses,
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EMERGENCY CONTACTS	<table> <tr> <td><u>Federal Emergency Management Agency:</u></td> <td>(940) 898-5399</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>State Emergency Management Agency:</u></td> <td>(501) 730-9750</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Federal Bureau of Investigation:</u></td> <td>(501) 221-9100</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>State Public Health Agency:</u></td> <td>(501) 661-2417</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Federal Emergency Management Agency:</u>	(940) 898-5399	<u>State Emergency Management Agency:</u>	(501) 730-9750	<u>Federal Bureau of Investigation:</u>	(501) 221-9100	<u>State Public Health Agency:</u>	(501) 661-2417
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Anecdotes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 								

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